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CENTRAL FAX CENTER
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IN THE CLAIMS

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior version, and listings, of claims in the application. Where claims have been amended and/or canceled, such amendments and/or cancellations are done without prejudice and/or waiver and/or disclaimer to the claimed and/or disclosed subject matter, and the applicant and/or assignee reserves the right to claim this subject matter and/or other disclosed subject matter in a continuing application.

Listing of Claims:

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) A supporting structure for a scanner having a housing and a platform for receiving documents thereon connected to at least a wall of the housing, the supporting structure, comprising:

a supporting surface ~~eapable of contacting~~ connected to ~~[[a]]~~ the platform of ~~[[a]]~~ the scanner; and

an absorbing body located beneath the supporting surface capable of resilient deformation to absorb ~~absorbing~~ an external stress received by the supporting surface in response to an external force, wherein said supporting structure is ~~eapable of being~~ integrally formed with the scanner housing of said scanner.

2. (Previously presented) The supporting structure of claim 1, wherein the absorbing body is located along a periphery of the platform.

3. (Previously presented) The supporting structure of claim 1, wherein the absorbing body comprises an inclined structure.

4-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) The supporting structure of claim 1, wherein the absorbing body comprises a substantially curved structure.

7-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) The supporting structure of claim 1, wherein the absorbing body comprises an inclined portion and a substantially curved portion.

10. (Previously presented) The supporting structure of claim 9, wherein the absorbing body comprises a substantially "5" shape.

11. (Previously Presented) The supporting structure of claim 1, wherein the platform comprises glass.

12. (Previously Presented) The supporting structure of claim 1, wherein the platform comprises acrylic resin.

13. (Currently Amended) A scanner having a housing, comprising:
a platform for receiving documents thereon connected to at least a wall of the housing;
~~a housing comprising an opening on which a platform is capable of being placed; and~~
~~one or more~~ a plurality of support elements integrally formed with ~~mounted on one or~~
~~more interior walls of the housing~~, at least one of the support elements ~~comprising~~ including:
a supporting surface on at least one of the support elements, the supporting surface capable of contacting the platform of the scanner; and
an absorbing body located beneath the supporting surface, the absorbing body capable of resilient deformation to absorb ~~absorbing~~ a stress received by the supporting surface in response to an external force.

14. (Currently Amended) The scanner of claim 13, wherein at least one of the support elements ~~[[are]]~~ is located along a periphery of the platform.

15. (Previously Presented) The scanner of claim 13, wherein the absorbing body comprises an inclined portion.

16-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) The scanner of claim 13, wherein the absorbing body comprises a substantially curved structure.

19-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) The scanner of claim 13, wherein the absorbing body comprises an inclined portion and a substantially curved portion.

22. (Previously Presented) The scanner of claim 21, wherein the absorbing body comprises a substantially "5" shape.

23. (Previously Presented) The scanner of claim 13, wherein the platform comprises glass.

24. (Previously Presented) The scanner of claim 13, wherein the platform comprises acrylic resin.

25. (Currently Amended) The scanner of claim 13, wherein at least one of the support elements ~~[[are]]~~ is integrally formed with the inner wall of the housing.

26. (Previously Presented) The scanner of claim 13, further comprising a stand located on a bottom of the housing, the stand capable of supporting the absorbing body.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously Presented) The supporting structure of claim 1, wherein said supporting structure is capable of being integrally formed with the inner wall of the housing.

29. (Previously Presented) The supporting structure of claim 1, wherein said absorbing body is capable of being supported by a stand located on a bottom of the housing.

30. (Withdrawn) A method, comprising:
supporting a platform of a scanner via a supporting surface of a support element; and
absorbing an external stress received by the supporting surface via an absorbing body of the support element.

31. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 30, wherein the absorbing an external stress received by the supporting surface via an absorbing body of the support element comprises absorbing an external stress received by the supporting surface via an absorbing body located along a periphery of the platform.

32. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 30, wherein the absorbing an external stress received by the supporting surface via an absorbing body of the support element comprises absorbing an external stress received by the supporting surface via an absorbing body comprising one or more of the following: an inclined structure, a substantially curved structure, an inclined portion and a substantially curved portion, and/or a substantially "S" shape, or combinations thereof.

33. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 30, wherein the absorbing an external stress received by the supporting surface via an absorbing body of the support element comprises:

absorbing an external stress received by the supporting surface via a first portion of the absorbing body of the support element; and

absorbing an external stress received by the supporting surface via a second portion of the absorbing body, wherein the second portion has a level of deformation different from a level of deformation of the first portion.

34. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:
means for supporting a platform of a scanner; and
means for resiliently deforming to absorb ~~absorbing~~ an external stress received by the means for supporting a platform of the scanner, wherein the means for resiliently deforming to absorb an external stress includes:

a first means for resiliently deforming to absorb the external stress; and,

second means for resiliently deforming to absorb the external stress, wherein the second means has a level of deformation different from a level of deformation of the first means.

35. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the means for supporting a platform of a scanner comprises one or more of the following: an inclined structure, a substantially curved structure, an inclined portion and a substantially curved portion, and/or a substantially "5" shape, or combinations thereof.

36. (Canceled)